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*Marine Fisheries* Advisory

SCIENTISTS AND FISHERMEN TEAM UP TO MOVE WHITE SHARK FINAL 100  
YARDS TO OPEN WATER

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At 11:00 a.m. this morning, scientists with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (*Marine Fisheries*) and the team of commercial weir fishermen arrived on site to begin the final steps of moving the white shark to open water. Much was accomplished last Friday to move the shark beyond the channel. The fishermen succeeded in setting nets across the channel, blocking the fish's passage to the upper reaches of the channel, and leap-frogging the panels until the shark was displaced to the outlet of the channel. Now the shark needs to be coaxed over an eel-grass covered shoal about 100-200 feet across.

Yesterday, the fishermen convened with *Marine Fisheries* scientists and studied aerial footage provided by the a commercial news station. From this footage, they got an omniscient view of last Friday's successful effort of moving the animal beyond the channel. From the video, the team learned more about the water depths, contours, and the fish's movements always seeking deeper water. The video confirmed that to get the shark to open deeper water will only require coaxing the fish a few hundred feet to the south where the water gets progressively deeper. Once there, the team believes the fish will swim away from the coast.

The commercial fishermen team led by Ernie Eldridge of Chatham learned much about the shark's behavior on Friday. The shark did not challenge the net nor try to swim through it. Upon contact, the shark swam away from the net. These observations have inspired them to devise a net-like herding device, a curtain of vertically-hung lead-filled line. They hope the fish could be steered over the eel-grass shoal using this device. If this simple device does not work to steer the fish to offshore waters, the team intends to incorporate one of the net panels on scene into the device to present the shark a more continuous wall of netting to coax the fish. The team is also planning to use shark shields on the herding device (more information at <http://www.sharkshield.com>), which produce electric current in the water, hoping to repel the fish away from shoal waters.

Much has been learned about the shark and the local habitat through direct observation, and studying the available aerial footage. Consequently, the team is confident the shark will depart the area of Lackey's Bay and these shoal waters at the first available

opportunity. The team intends to capitalize on today's 12:40 pm high tide, so most activity is likely to occur between the hours of noon and 3 pm.

Officials wish to remind media and the public of the need for strict adherence to the safety zone established by *Marine Fisheries* Director Diodati and the U.S. Coast Guard for the safety of both the shark and people. The Coast Guard and the Massachusetts Environmental Police are on scene enforcing access restrictions in the vicinity.

Further updates will be done at the end of the day.